

PUBLIC HEALTH

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HEALTHIER WASHINGTON

You may have chlamydia. It is important that you get treated. Your sex partner was recently treated for chlamydia, an infection you get from having sex with a person who is already infected. Many people with chlamydia do not know they have the infection because they feel fine.

The best way to take care of yourself is to see a doctor, go to your local health department or visit a family planning clinic. If you are not able to see a doctor or other medical provider, you should take the medicine in this package.

Women: If you have symptoms of abdominal or pelvic pain, it is important that you see a doctor to be certain you do not have pelvic inflammatory disease (PID). PID can be serious and lead to infertility, pregnancy problems or chronic pelvic pain.

Men who have sex with men (MSM): MSM in Washington State continue to experience high rates of syphilis and HIV. Many MSM with gonorrhea or chlamydia may have HIV and not know it. If you are a man who has sex with other men, it is very important that you see a doctor or other medical provider and are tested for HIV and syphilis.

Directions* for taking Chlamydia medicine Azithromycin (Zithromax) 250 mg tablets

These medicines are very safe. However, you should not take them if you have ever had an allergic reaction (like a rash) to any of these medicines: azithromycin (Zithromax), erythromycin, clarithromycin (Biaxin). If you are uncertain about whether you have an allergy, call your doctor or pharmacist before taking this medicine. If you have a serious, long-term illness like kidney, liver or heart disease, colitis or stomach problems, talk to your doctor before taking this medication.

Azithromycin: swallow all four of the enclosed pills. These should be taken one after another at the same time, not on separate days. Some people have a mild, upset stomach (which does not last long) after taking this medicine.

After taking these medicines, do not have sex for 7 days. Do not share these medicines or give them to anyone else. It is important to tell everyone you have had sex with in the last 60 days that they need to go to the doctor.

*Adapted from the Partner Study, Public Health - Seattle & King County and from the 2006 STD Treatment Guidelines, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

If you have any questions, please call Leyna Yarosz at 1-855-468-8455 at the Washington State Department of Health. If you think you may be having bad reactions to this medicine, call your doctor or pharmacist. If you are having a serious reaction, like difficulty breathing (which is very rare), go to your nearest emergency room and bring the empty medication packet with you.

For more information on STDs, visit: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/STD/Default.htm>

